

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10020

Room 5600

Circle 7-3700

December 23, 1977

Dear Dr. Lederberg - or may I call you Josh?

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to receive your thoughtful handwritten note! There is certainly no Christmas present that I would prize more highly than the thought you will soon become President of the Rockefeller University. As you know, we have scoured the field very thoroughly for a year and a half and, therefore, feel that in asking you to accept this post, we could do so with a high degree of confidence that we are asking the right man.

I can readily understand that this represents a considerable wrench for you and your family. I would hope, however, that a year from now -- assuming that everything works out as we very much hope it will -- both you and your wife will feel that you made the right decision and that the opportunities and benefits from being at the Rockefeller and living in New York more than offset the obvious attractions of your present activities. You can certainly count on all of us on the Board of Trustees, and I am sure the faculty as well, to make your new post both pleasant and successful.

I can assure you that I am looking forward with the keenest anticipation of having an opportunity to work very closely with you. My lifelong devotion to the University will only be enhanced by the new dimensions which will be added by your presence and leadership.

I hope you and your family may share happy holidays together and I look forward to seeing you in New York early in the New Year.

With warm good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



David Rockefeller

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, California 94305